

From: Barry Levine
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Doesn't even pass the laugh test

There can be no remedy for the grievous offenses committed by Microsoft unless it includes breaking up the company into two distinct groups:

1. Operating Systems (OS)
2. Applications

The idea that Internet Explorer (IE) is, or should be, "part of the Operating System" is ludicrous. IE is an application, period. Attempting to claim otherwise by sabotaging the OS so that removing IE renders Windows somehow "incapable" or "less than it was" is a blatant attempt to link the OS with the IE browser. This is, on its face, absurd.

For proof of my assertion, consider that Apple's MacOS9 (and its new MacOSX) can use ANY vendor's browser and STILL maintain a tight integration of services between the application and the operating system.

Microsoft is simply attempting to push users of its OS over to its portals in an attempt to squeeze every penny of revenue out of its customers at the expense of its competitors AND its customers (by removing choice!). EVERYONE out here (both Apple and non-Apple users) knows this. For the DOJ to feign blindness in this regard is the height of cynicism; it doesn't even pass the laugh test.

The proper way to manage the breakup is to force ALL communications between the two groups to be public - via postings in the Internet. It is only in this manner that the public (and the applications vendors) can be assured that the OS group and the Applications group do not pass "secrets" to each other.

Judge Jackson's interviews with the reporter may have been inappropriate but his findings of fact -AND- his remedies were "spot-on".

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